

MEETING OF THE CITY OF RUSHVILLE, INDIANA COMMON COUNCIL

OCTOBER 20, 2020

6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: The Common Council of the City of Rushville met on the above date and time at 330 North Main Suite 200 Rushville Indiana. Mayor Pavey called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: The Pledge to the Flag was recited by those present.

PRAYER: Councilman Berkemeier led those present in prayer.

ROLL CALL: Bob Bridges, Brad Berkemeier, Elton Marzon, Mike Daubenspeck, Aaron Gurley, and Nick Culley, (Youth Liaison) answered roll call.

PUBLIC HEARING: Proposed Amendment to Lease – Mayor Pavey said this public hearing was regarding the bond issue and asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. Bridges made a motion to close the public hearing. Gurley seconded the motion. The public hearing was closed.

MINUTES: Bridges moved to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2020 meeting as presented. Marzon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Pavey gave the following report:

1. Sheehan & Pavey went to Winchester and participated in a "Live to Lead" presentation.
2. Libations by the Levy went well. There was a smaller crowd.
3. The dedication for the labyrinth at the CJD Park was well attended.
4. Had a meeting with Councilman Berkemeier regarding the budget.
5. Met yesterday with the contractor, Kasey, and Scott Hill regarding the animal shelter.
6. Attended the Redevelopment meeting Monday evening.
7. Tomorrow Ann & I will take part in a conference call with Baker Tilly regarding the bond issue and due diligence.
8. We will walk the Flatrock Run Trail and leave a handout on doors.
9. Thursday HWC will give the utility audit report.
10. The Governor's office will visit.
11. Brian and I have reviewed the rough draft of the Comprehensive Plan. A copy was given to Councilman Berkemeier for his review.
12. Asked Indot for approval of Phase 2 of Cherry Street.
13. The traffic committee is looking at 8th & Perkins issue.

14. I have made my selection for the representatives for the 501C3. They are Dan Hedrick, Lonnie Dehoney, Kevin Snyder, and Delbert Frazier.
15. The final easement for the lights south of town has been signed and submitted.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT: Nothing.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Council President Berkemeier said he appreciated all of those that took time to meet with him regarding the fire department budget. Berkemeier will be out of town next week.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Stellar Designation** – The projects continue to move toward completion.
- **Amphitheater/Park Board** – Libations ended the season.
- **APC/BZA** – Nothing.
- **Housing** – Progressing.
- **ECDC** – Nothing.
- **Cherry Street Extension** – Nothing.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Park – Director Burklow said the labyrinth ceremony at the CJD Park went great with approximately 65-70 attending.

Police – Chief Tucker said he has received the traffic count for 8th & Perkins.

They are in the process of revamping the drone program. They will be hosting a drone program for the FFA soon.

Street – Commissioner Miller reported that the Board of Works approved hiring Bryce Thomas.

Miller also thanked the City Utilities for their help with the heavy trash collection.

Utility – Superintendent said they will be advertising for 2 openings.

They have had an engineering firm look for well sites. They have looked at 4 sites, but all were unsuccessful.

A new mag meter has been installed at Intat. We were estimating our billing and only billing them for 20,000 cubic feet when they are using 48,000 cubic feet. This will be a big increase in revenue. The meter was installed at Intat's request.

CITIZEN CONCERNS/COMMENTS: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Rushville Property Revitalization Program** – Sheehan has had two more formal meetings, but no one has requested to move forward.
2. **Diversity and Inclusion Council** – Mayor Pavey thanked Councilman Marzon for his help with the labyrinth dedication.
3. **Protest Guidelines (work in progress)** – A draft has been sent out to some departments for review. Some will require permits and we need to draw up the permit form.
4. **Sale of Property Resolution 2020-30** – Tracy Newhouse said we don't know who owns the property. We can sell by quit claim, and the owner can apply for quite title. Berkemeier said he does not understand how we can sell if we don't know the owner. Newhouse said the City does have an interest we just can't verify title ownership. Mayor Pavey said the City continues to maintain the property. Daubenspeck moved to approve the sale of the property by quit claim and with it being made clear to the purchaser that they will be responsible to apply for quite title and that they would also be responsible for any incurred fees. Bridges seconded the motion. Motion carried with Gurley voting "nay".
5. **Street Re-Naming Resolution 2020-45** – This will come before Council at the next meeting due to not getting the public hearing in the paper soon enough for this meeting. Berkemeier said he has a preference to re-name 15th Street to Veteran's Memorial Parkway.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Budget Update MVH** – We still need to look at the MVH budget.
2. **Ordinance 2020-19 – 2021 Salary Ordinance** – Councilman Berkemeier said he has had several discussions regarding the request from the fire department to increase their base pay.

Copley said she wanted it to be a part of the record that she is not in favor of putting an increase on the base pay to be paid from the EMS non-reverting fund because we can't be sure that there will be enough revenue years down the road. She stated that she does not have an issue with giving a stipend out of the non-reverting fund.

Bridges said he has worked with Ann since 2000 and he respects her opinion. Bridges said Copley also checked with Baker Tilly as to their opinion and they stated that they would not be comfortable counting on the money being available in the fund every year down the road. Bridges said this is very very risky for us. He said he thought a stipend was the way to go.

Berkemeier said currently we are operating with good balances. We have a cushion but not sure how long that will last. He said we should review our fee structure for the ambulance service. Berkemeier said we need to see projected revenue and expenses. He said he would like more of a comfort level and more efficiency. It needs to be understood that there could be layoffs if funds are not available.

Mayor Pavey said when he was interviewing for the chief position the applicants were looking at base pay for their retirement.

Munson said we need to consider retention and quality of personnel. It is difficult to get good quality of applicants due to our base being too low. We currently have 2 looking to leave. Gurley said we want to see our community continue to grow and we need good quality personnel.

Marzon said he appreciates our first responders. He said the concerns of retention are valid, however, the uncertainty of the non-reverting funds sustaining this move forward are questionable. He said he would like to revisit this annually to get more historical data for a base pay increase. He said we need to be sure after this Council is gone it isn't an issue for someone else to rectify.

Berkemeier asked for Munson's reaction of a stipend vs. base pay. Munson said they would appreciate the stipend, but thought it would have to be on base pay in order for them to stay. Munson said he thought it would take \$2400.00 on their base pay to make them stay. Berkemeier said the \$2400.00 would not be at all responsible. He said we would be stretching it at \$1750.00.

Bridges said this is not the year to go over and above with all that is going on.

Berkemeier made a motion to approve the salary ordinance as presented. Gurley seconded the motion. Motion failed to pass with 2 in favor and 3 opposed (Bridges, Marzon, and Daubenspeck).

Berkemeier made a motion to approve the salary ordinance with a stipend to the fire department employees of \$1750.00 to be paid out in 2 installments one half in June and the second half in December. This stipend is to be paid from the EMS non-reverting fund (fund 136). If an employee leaves employment with the City the stipend will be pro-rated. Bridges seconded the motion. Motion carried with Berkemeier, Bridges and Marzon voting in favor of the motion and Gurley and Daubenspeck voting against the motion.

3. **Ordinance 2020-20 – Elected Officials Salary Ordinance** – Berkemeier moved to approve Ordinance 2020-20 as presented. Marzon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. **Resolution 2020-44 Approving the Building Corporation, Authorizing Execution of a First Amendment to Lease, and Approving the issuance of Bonds and Related Matters** –Bridges moved to approve Resolution 2020-44. Marzon seconded. Motion carried.
5. **ECDC Strategic Plan** – Meeting - An update has been provided. This will be a 2 year process. It should be signed at their next meeting.

Berkemeier asked the Mayor to invite Cormo to come to a Council meeting and give an update.
6. **Police Department Vehicle Purchase** – Chief Tucker presented a proposal to purchase 2 vehicles. One will replace an administrative vehicle and one for the fleet. He said the vehicles will not arrive until the first of year. One is budgeted in next year's budget and one in this year. Bridges moved to approve the purchase of the vehicles as requested. Marzon seconded the motion. Motion carried.
7. **Resolution 2020-43 Cares Act Funding** – Berkemeier moved to approve Resolution 2020-43 as presented. Daubenspeck seconded the motion. Motion carried.
8. **Election Day Meeting Date** – Due to the next meeting being on Election Day we will meet on the Monday prior to the election. Gurley said he will not be able to attend the meetings for 3 months starting in November.

COVID-19 – Governor's Stage 5.0 –The Governor extended the 5.0 including the mass mandate. This allows us to continue digital meetings. If our numbers continue to increase we may need to consider discontinuing visits to City Center without an appointment. Rush County is currently at 5.9. We may go to yellow status.

CLAIMS APPROVAL: Daubenspeck moved to approve the claims as presented. Berkemeier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ITEMS NOT KNOWN IN ADVANCE: None.

ADJOURN: There was no further business to come before Council; Bridges moved to adjourn. Daubenspeck seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.